

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0912
October 3, 2019

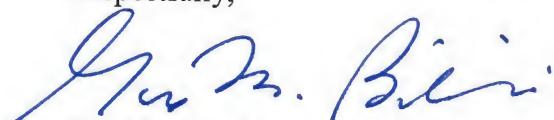
The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

There has been a recent series in the *Tampa Bay Times* alleging possible wrong-doing by a psychiatric facility in my district, the North Tampa Behavioral Health Hospital. The article^[1] notes that the vast majority of the hospital's \$17 million annual profits from last year are derived from taxpayer-funded programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid. Further, the article quotes patients and families who claim that no actual psychiatric care was provided, despite billing Medicare and Medicaid for those services. Additionally, stakeholders report that patients are being required to stay at the facility beyond the length of time allowed under the law. I wanted to make sure your office is aware of these allegations and ask that you direct your team to investigate, as appropriate. I know you share my desire to ensure all patients have access to high quality healthcare and mental health services, and to stop any potential wrongful billing practices that may divert precious resources from vital programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please keep me informed of any findings your team may uncover.

Respectfully,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress